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(54) **A METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR PRODUCING WEBS OF MATERIAL THAT HAVE DISCRETE PIECES OF MATERIAL MOUNTED THEREON**

VERFAHREN SOWIE VORRICHTUNG ZUR HERSTELLUNG VON MATERIALBAHNEN AUF
DENEN AUFGETRENNTE MATERIALTEILE MONTIERT WERDEN

PROCEDE ET DISPOSITIF PERMETTANT DE PRODUIRE DES NAPPES DE MATERIAU SUR
LESQUELLES SONT MONTES DES MORCEAUX DE MATERIAU

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(73) Proprietor: **SCA Hygiene Products AB
405 03 Göteborg (SE)**

(72) Inventors:
• **BACKLUND, Lennart
S-511 62 Skene (SE)**
• **SKOG, Terje
N-3180 Nykirke (NO)**

(74) Representative: **Hyltner, Jan-Olof et al
Albihns Stockholm AB,
Box 5581
114 85 Stockholm (SE)**

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Description**FIELD OF INVENTION**

[0001] The present invention relates to a method of producing webs of material that have discrete pieces of material mounted thereon. The invention also relates to an arrangement for carrying out the method.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The manufacture of certain sheets of material that are intended for the production of absorbent articles for instance, such as diapers, sanitary napkins, incontinence protectors, panty liners and like articles, sometimes comprises mounting and bonding discrete pieces of material on and to travelling webs of material. These discrete pieces are normally glued to the web, although they may alternatively be welded, there being required several so-called anvil rolls against which the travelling web is pressed and passes tangentially thereto or is partially embraced by one of the anvil rolls carrying said pieces of material, wherewith said pieces are brought into contact with the travelling web by means of said anvil roll.

[0003] The transfer of cut pieces of material from the anvil roll to the travelling web is often facilitated with the aid of glue or some other adhesive agent. In this regard, the cut pieces of material are adhered to the anvil roll and then transferred to the travelling web as said web lies against the anvil roll, by virtue of rotation of said roll. The use of glue in this process increases the "stop time" and therewith lowers productivity and also increases material consumption, which has a negative affect on the price of the product, among other things.

[0004] JP-A-8052696 describes a cutting unit for cutting sanitary articles from a roll of material. The cutting unit includes an anvil roll and a cutting roller which are arranged opposite one another. The sanitary articles cut from the reel of material are sucked firmly to the surface of the cutting roller and transferred to a feed roll.

[0005] One problem associated with the use of the same anvil roll for cutting (clipping), transferring and bonding the pieces of material to the web is that an adhesive agent, such as glue, is required to this end. If the pieces of material are to be welded to the web for instance, it is necessary in the case of present technology to hold the loose pieces of material firmly during different transfer occasions between several anvil rolls. This requires the provision of more equipment and impairs the accuracy in which the pieces of material are applied to the web, resulting in poorer product quality.

[0006] It is thus desirable to be able to utilise one and the same anvil roll for all phases without needing to use glue or any other adhesive agent.

[0007] Other methods according to the preamble of claim 1 and arrangements according to the preamble of claim 8 are known from EP-A-0358382, WO-A-9841401

and US-A-4795510.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The object of the invention is to solve the afore-said problems. This object is achieved in accordance with the invention with a method and with an arrangement for producing webs of material that have pieces of material mounted thereon, said method and arrangement comprising the use of one single anvil roll which cuts, accelerates, transfers and joins the discrete pieces of material to the travelling web in the absence of glue or any other adhesive agent. The pieces are mounted on the web by virtue of the anvil roll comprising means for holding said pieces against the anvil roll subsequent to cutting out said pieces, for transferring said pieces to the travelling web and for fastening said pieces thereto.

[0009] According to one preferred embodiment of the invention, the method comprises the steps of:

- cutting discrete pieces from at least one material with the aid of cutting means, preferably in the form of a rotating cutter roll while using the anvil roll as a counterpressure means;
- firmly holding and applying said discrete pieces onto at least one web of material that moves against the anvil roll, by using the anvil roll as a transfer element;
- fastening said discrete pieces to said at least one travelling web with the aid of fastener means, wherein said pieces are mutually separated by cutting, accelerated whilst firmly held and then fastened or bonded to said at least one web of material, without the use of adhesive agent, through the medium of one and the same anvil roll and by means of said fastening means whilst using the anvil roll as a counterpressure means even when fastening said discrete pieces to said web, and wherewith the discrete pieces are held firmly by means of holding means provided on the anvil roll.

According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, the arrangement for carrying out the method includes an anvil roll which is rotatable about its longitudinal axis and which is partly embraced by or tangential to said at least one web of material and which carries sequentially in its direction of rotation means for cutting discrete pieces from at least one material, and means for fastening or bonding said discrete pieces to said web, wherein the anvil roll includes between said cutting means and said fastening means further means which function to hold the discrete pieces of material against the roll prior to fastening said pieces to said web with the aid of said fastening means.

[0010] The pieces of material are preferably held to the anvil roll by suction, wherewith the means for holding said pieces may, for instance, comprise vacuum generating means, means that utilise static electricity or a me-

chanically working device.

[0011] The pieces are preferably fastened to the web by welding, such as ultrasound welding, or by some other type of heat-applying method and/or device, such as a hot roll, laser, thermobonding device, etc..

[0012] A significant advantage afforded by the inventive method and the inventive arrangement resides in the simplification that is achieved with the use of solely one single anvil roll for all of the steps involving cutting, accelerating, and transferring pieces of material to the travelling web of material and fastening said pieces to said web. A further advantage is that it is not necessary to use glue or some other adhesive agent to fasten said pieces to the web.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0013] The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which

[0014] Figure 1 illustrates schematically one embodiment of an inventive arrangement.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0015] The invention shall not be considered to be limited to the embodiment described below, as a number of further modifications are conceivable within the scope of the accompanying Claims.

[0016] The arrangement 10 shown in Fig. 1 comprises a cutting roller 1, an anvil roll 2, and associated guide rollers 3. A web of material 4 onto which pieces of material shall be mounted moves in abutment with the anvil roll 2 in the arrowed direction, with an infeed angle α and a relief angle β . The size of the surface a with which the web 4 is in abutment with the anvil roll 2 and the angles α , β are adjusted by commensurate adjustment of the two guide rollers 3 in a vertical or a horizontal direction, as illustrated with the double-headed arrows.

[0017] As the web 4 lies against the anvil roll 2, welding energy is applied, appropriately with a welding device 5, so as to fasten or bond the pieces 6 to the travelling web 4. The welding device 5 may comprise an ultrasound welding device that includes a horn. When welding, it is suitable to use positional control of the horn so as to maintain the correct distance between welding horn and anvil pattern. Alternatively, any other appropriate type of heat applying device can be used instead of a welding device, such as a heating roll, laser or like device.

[0018] The web 4 is relieved from the anvil roll 2 at a relief angle β , such that the web 4 will have time to cool down (if necessary) subsequent to bonding the pieces of material thereto and prior to pulling the web 4 from the anvil roll 2. After said bonding process, the cooling temperature and cooling time must be adapted with respect to the quantities of material used and also with respect to the materials from which the web 4 and said

pieces 6 are comprised.

[0019] The discrete pieces of material may comprise wadding, adhesive tape, etc.

[0020] The web may consist of polypropylene, polyethylene, etc.

[0021] The relief angle β can be varied to provide different cooling times subsequent to bonding or fastening the discrete pieces to the web.

[0022] When using an anvil roll that has two holding devices, as in the case of Fig. 1, the relief angle β may suitably vary between 0 and 270°. Other angles apply with other numbers of holding devices. Although not shown, it is also possible to cool subsequent to applying said discrete pieces, suitably with the aid of some form of cooling device.

[0023] The material 9 from which said discrete pieces 6 are formed is fed in between the cutter roll 1 and the anvil roll 2, wherewith the cutter roll 1 cuts the material into appropriate discrete pieces 6 against the anvil roll 2, said pieces being held firmly to the anvil roll 2 by holding means 7, such as vacuum means or the like. The cut pieces 6 are transported on the barrel surface 8 of said anvil roll 2 as said roll rotates about its longitudinal axis at a constant or varying speed, which is clockwise in the case of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1.

[0024] The pieces are suitably cut at a relief angle β of 0°, normally vertical above the fastening point.

[0025] Web speeds, fastening times, such as weld times, and rotational speeds will depend on material qualities, weights per unit area, fastening methods, e.g. different welding patterns, weld gap and the number of cutters (knives) on the cutting roll.

[0026] It is essential that the bond that joins the discrete pieces 6 to the travelling web 4 is strong enough to resist the force occurring when the web 4 is relieved from the anvil roll 2.

[0027] It has also been found that the contact angle α between the anvil roll 2 and the travelling web 4 can be varied. This can influence the infeed of the travelling web into the gap or nip between the anvil roll and the bonding device, and can also influence the accuracy with which the discrete pieces 6 are applied. For instance, when using an anvil roll that has two holding device, as in Fig. 1, and said pieces are welded to the web, the contact angle α will preferably be between 0 and 160°. Other angles apply in the case of different numbers of holding devices.

[0028] When using an anvil roll that has two holding devices, as in Fig. 1, the angle γ between the cutting roll and the bonding device will preferably be between 90 and 180°. However, this angle will depend on the distance between cutting point and bonding point, e.g. welding point, so that the bond is not affected by vibrations from the cutting roll. Other angles apply with different members of holding devices.

Claims

1. A method of producing material in the form of a material web (4) that has mounted thereon discrete pieces of material (6) intended for use in the manufacture of absorbent articles, such as diapers, pants-type diapers, sanitary napkins, incontinence protectors and like articles, said method comprising the steps of:
 - cutting discrete pieces (6) from at least one material (9) with the aid of a cutter (1), preferably in the form of a rotary cutter roll, while using an anvil roll (2) as a counterpressure roll;
 - firmly holding the discrete pieces (6) cut by the cutter (1) on the anvil roll (2) so as to transfer said discrete pieces (6) onto at least one web of material (4) that is guided into contact with the anvil roll (2);
 - bonding the discrete pieces of material (6) to said at least one travelling web (4) while being in contact with the anvil roll with the aid of bonding means (5),

characterised by guiding the at least one web of material (4) into contact with the anvil roll (2) along a portion of the circumference of the anvil roll so that said discrete pieces (6) and said web (4) are running together against the anvil roll (2) before and after bonding of said pieces (6) to said web (4), the holding and the bonding being made in the absence of any adhesion agent, wherewith the discrete pieces (6) are held firmly by means of holding devices (7) provided on the anvil roll (2).
2. A method according to Claim 1, **characterised by** holding said discrete pieces (6) with the aid of a vacuum.
3. A method according to Claim 1, **characterised by** holding said discrete pieces (6) by means of static electricity.
4. A method according to Claim 1, **characterised by** holding the discrete pieces (6) mechanically.
5. A method according to any one of Claims 1-4, **characterised by** heat-bonding said discrete pieces.
6. A method according to Claim 5, **characterised by** weld-bonding said discrete pieces, particularly ultrasound welding said pieces.
7. A method according to Claim 5, **characterised by** bonding said pieces with the aid of a heat delivering device, such as a heating roll.
8. An arrangement (10) for bonding or joining discrete pieces of material (6) to material in the form of at least one travelling web (4), intended for use in the manufacture of absorbent articles such as diapers, pants-like diapers, sanitary napkins, incontinence guards and like articles, said arrangement (10) comprising an anvil roll (2) which rotates about its longitudinal axis and forms a counterpressure means of a cutting means (1,2) for cutting discrete pieces (6) from at least one material (9) and of a bonding or fastening means (5), the cutter (1) of the cutting means and the remaining parts of the bonding means (5) being located at different locations around the periphery of the anvil roll (2), the cutter being placed first as seen in the direction of rotation of the anvil roll (2), **characterised in that** the anvil roll (2) includes holding means (7) for holding said discrete pieces (6) firmly against the roll (2) prior to bonding said discrete pieces to said web (4) with the aid of said bonding means (5), and **in that** the arrangement includes means (3) for holding the web (4) in abutment with the anvil roll (2) before and after passage of the bonding means (5).
9. An arrangement according to Claim 8, **characterised in that** the holding means (7) is a vacuum suction means.
10. An arrangement according to Claim 8, **characterised in that** the holding means (7) utilises static electricity.
11. An arrangement according to Claim 8, **characterised in that** the holding means (7) is a mechanical device, such as an edge that projects out radially from the anvil roll (2).
12. An arrangement according to any one of Claims 8-11, **characterised in that** the bonding device (5) is a welding device, preferably an ultrasound welding device.
13. An arrangement according to any one of Claims 8-11, **characterised in that** the bonding device (5) is a hot roll.
14. An arrangement according to any one of Claims 8-13, **characterised in that** the cutting roll (1) and the bonding means (5) are disposed essentially in line with each other on opposite sides of the anvil roll (2), wherein an angle γ between cutting points and welding points $\approx 180^\circ$.
15. An arrangement according to any one of Claims 8-14, **characterised by** guide rollers (3) which are adapted to vary the size of an abutment surface α , wherewith said at least one material web (4) abuts the anvil roll (2), and in that the guide rolls (3) can be adjusted vertically and laterally.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines Materials in der Form einer Materialbahn (4), die daran angebracht diskrete Materialstücke (6) aufweist, das für die Verwendung bei der Herstellung von Absorptionsartikeln, wie z.B. Windeln, hörschenartigen Windeln, Hygienebinden, Inkontinenzschutzeinrichtungen und ähnlichen Artikeln vorgesehen ist, wobei das Verfahren folgende Schritte aufweist:

Schneiden diskreter Stücke (6) von wenigstens einem Material (9) mit Hilfe einer Schneideinrichtung (1) vorzugsweise in der Form einer Dreh-Schneidwalze während eine Ambosswalze (2) als eine Gegendruckwalze verwendet wird;

festes Halten der diskreten Stücke (6), die durch die Schneideinrichtung (1) geschnitten wurden, an der Ambosswalze (2) derart, dass die diskreten Stücke (6) auf wenigstens eine Bahn von Material (4) übertragen werden, die in Berührung mit der Ambosswalze (2) geführt wird;

Verbinden der diskreten Materialstücke (6) an die wenigstens eine sich bewegende Bahn (4) während sie in Berührung mit der Ambosswalze sind, und zwar mit Hilfe von Verbindungseinrichtungen (5),

gekennzeichnet durch Führen der wenigstens einen Materialbahn (4) in Berührung mit der Ambosswalze (2) entlang eines Abschnitts des Umfangs der Ambosswalze, so dass die diskreten Stücke (6) und die Bahn (4) gegen die Ambosswalze (2) vor und nach dem Verbinden der Stücke (6) an die Bahn (4) zusammenlaufen, wobei das Halten und das Verbinden in der Abwesenheit eines jeglichen Haftmittels durchgeführt werden, wobei die diskreten Stücke (6) fest mittels Haltevorrichtungen (7) gehalten werden, die an der Ambosswalze (2) vorgesehen sind.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, **gekennzeichnet durch** Halten der diskreten Stücke (6) mit Hilfe eines Vakuums.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, **gekennzeichnet durch** Halten der diskreten Stücke (6) mittels statischer Elektrizität.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, **gekennzeichnet durch** mechanisches Halten der diskreten Stücke (6).

5. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, **ge-**

kennzeichnet durch Wärmeverbinden der diskreten Stücke.

6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, **gekennzeichnet durch** Schweißverbinden der diskreten Stücke, insbesondere Ultraschallschweißen der Stücke.

7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, **gekennzeichnet durch** Verbinden der Stücke mit Hilfe einer Wärmezuführvorrichtung, wie z.B. einer Wärmewalze.

8. Anordnung (10) zum Verbinden oder Anbringen diskreter Materialstücke (6) an Material in der Form wenigstens einer sich bewegenden Bahn (4), das für die Verwendung bei der Herstellung von Absorptionsartikeln, wie z.B. Windeln, hörschenartigen Windeln, Hygienebinden, Inkontinenzschutzeinrichtungen und ähnlichen Artikeln vorgesehen ist, wobei die Anordnung (10) eine Ambosswalze (2) aufweist, die sich um ihre Längsachse dreht und eine Gegendruckeinrichtung einer Schneidvorrichtung (1, 2) zum Schneiden diskreter Stücke (6) von wenigstens einem Material (9) und einer Verbindungs- oder Befestigungseinrichtung (5) bildet, wobei die Schneideinrichtung (1) der Schneidvorrichtung und die verbleibenden Teile der Verbindungseinrichtung (5) an unterschiedlichen Stellen um den Umfang der Ambosswalze (2) angeordnet sind, wobei die Schneideinrichtung als erstes, gesehen in der Drehrichtung der Ambosswalze (2) angeordnet ist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Ambosswalze (2) Halteeinrichtungen (7) zum Halten der diskreten Stücke (6) fest gegen die Rolle (2) vor dem Verbinden der diskreten Stücke an die Bahn (4) mit Hilfe der Verbindungseinrichtung (5) aufweist, und dass die Anordnung Einrichtungen (3) zum Halten der Bahn (4) in Anlage mit der Ambosswalze (2) vor und nach dem Durchtritt der Verbindungseinrichtung (5) aufweist.

9. Anordnung nach Anspruch 8, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Halteeinrichtung (7) eine Vakuumsaugeinrichtung ist.

10. Anordnung nach Anspruch 8, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Halteeinrichtung (7) statische Elektrizität verwendet.

11. Anordnung nach Anspruch 8, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Halteeinrichtung (7) eine mechanische Vorrichtung ist, wie z.B. ein Rand, der radial von der Ambosswalze (2) vorsteht.

12. Anordnung nach einem der Ansprüche 8 bis 11, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Verbindungsvorrichtung (5) eine Schweißvorrichtung, vorzugsweise eine Ultraschall-Schweißvorrichtung ist.

13. Anordnung nach einem der Ansprüche 8 bis 11, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Verbindungsvorrichtung (5) eine heiße Walze ist.

14. Anordnung nach einem der Ansprüche 8 bis 13, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Schneidwalze (1) und die Verbindungseinrichtung (5) im wesentlichen in Flucht miteinander an entgegengesetzten Seiten der Ambosswalze (2) angeordnet sind, wobei ein Winkel γ (14) zwischen Schneidpunkten und Schmelzpunkten ungefähr 180° ist.

15. Anordnung nach einem der Ansprüche 8 bis 14, **gekennzeichnet durch** Führungswalzen (3), die dafür angepasst sind, die Größe einer Anlagefläche α zu variieren, wodurch die wenigstens eine Materialbahn (4) an die Ambosswalze (2) anliegt, und **dadurch, dass** die Führungswalzen (3) vertikal und seitlich angepasst werden können.

Revendications

1. Procédé permettant de produire un matériau sous forme de bande de matériau (4) sur laquelle sont montés des morceaux de matériau discrets (6) destinés à être utilisés dans la fabrication d'articles absorbants, tels que des couches-culottes, des couches d'apprentissage de la propreté, des serviettes hygiéniques, des protections contre l'incontinence et articles similaires, ledit procédé comprenant les étapes consistant à :

- couper des morceaux discrets (6) dans au moins un matériau (9) à l'aide d'une coupeuse (1), de préférence sous forme de coupeuse rotative à rouleau, tout en utilisant un contre-cylindre (2) comme rouleau de contre-pression ;
- tenir fermement les morceaux discrets (6) coupés par la coupeuse (1) sur le contre-cylindre (2) de façon à transférer lesdits morceaux discrets (6) sur au moins une bande de matériau (4) qui est guidée en contact avec le contre-cylindre (2) ;
- coller les morceaux discrets de matériau (6) sur ladite au moins une bande mobile (4) tout en étant en contact avec le contre-cylindre à l'aide d'un moyen de collage (5),

caractérisé par le fait de guider ladite au moins une bande de matériau (4) en contact avec le contre-cylindre (2) le long d'une partie de la circonférence du contre-cylindre de telle manière que lesdits morceaux discrets (6) et ladite bande (4) se déplacent ensemble contre le contre-cylindre (2) avant et après le collage desdits morceaux (6) sur ladite bande (4), le maintien et le collage étant effectués en l'absence de tout agent d'adhésion, avec

quoi les morceaux discrets (6) sont tenus fermement au moyen de dispositifs de maintien (7) prévus sur le contre-cylindre (2).

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé par** le fait de tenir lesdits morceaux discrets (6) par aspiration.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé par** le fait de tenir lesdits morceaux discrets (6) par électricité statique.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé par** le fait de tenir les morceaux discrets (6) par un moyen mécanique.

5. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, **caractérisé par** le fait de thermocoller lesdits morceaux discrets (6).

6. Procédé selon la revendication 5, **caractérisé par** le fait de coller par soudage lesdits morceaux discrets, en particulier par soudage aux ultrasons.

7. Procédé selon la revendication 5, **caractérisé par** le fait de coller lesdits morceaux à l'aide d'un dispositif de chauffage, tel qu'un cylindre chauffant.

8. Dispositif (10) pour coller ou attacher des morceaux de matériau discrets (6) sur un matériau sous forme d'au moins une bande mobile (4), destinés à être utilisés dans la fabrication d'articles absorbants tels que des couches-culottes, des couches d'apprentissage de la propreté, des serviettes hygiéniques, des protections contre l'incontinence et articles similaires, ledit dispositif (10) comprenant un contre-cylindre (2) qui tourne autour de son axe longitudinal et forme un moyen de contre-pression d'un moyen de coupe (1, 2) pour couper des morceaux discrets (6) à partir d'au moins un matériau (9) et d'un moyen de collage ou de fixation (5), la coupeuse (1) du moyen de coupe et les parties restantes du moyen de collage (5) étant situées en différents endroits autour de la périphérie du contre-cylindre (2), la coupeuse étant placée la première, vue dans le sens de rotation du contre-cylindre (2), **caractérisé en ce que** le contre-cylindre (2) comprend un moyen de maintien (7) pour tenir fermement lesdits morceaux discrets (6) contre le contre-cylindre (2) avant le collage desdits morceaux discrets sur ladite bande (4) à l'aide dudit moyen de collage (5), et **en ce que** le dispositif comprend un moyen (3) pour tenir la bande (4) en appui sur le contre-cylindre (2) avant et après le passage du moyen de collage (5).

9. Dispositif selon la revendication 8, **caractérisé en ce que** le moyen de maintien (7) est un moyen d'as-

piration.

10. Dispositif selon la revendication 8, **caractérisé en ce que** le moyen de maintien (7) utilise l'électricité statique. 5
11. Dispositif selon la revendication 8, **caractérisé en ce que** le moyen de maintien (7) est un dispositif mécanique, tel qu'un bord qui fait saillie radialement depuis le contre-cylindre (2). 10
12. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 11, **caractérisé en ce que** le dispositif de collage (5) est un dispositif de soudage, de préférence un dispositif de soudage aux ultrasons. 15
13. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 11, **caractérisé en ce que** le dispositif de collage (5) est un cylindre chaud. 20
14. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 13, **caractérisé en ce que** la coupeuse rotative (1) et le moyen de collage (5) sont essentiellement alignés l'un par rapport à l'autre sur les côtés opposés du contre-cylindre (2), un angle γ entre les points de coupe et les points de soudage étant sensiblement égal à 180° . 25
15. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 14, **caractérisé par** des rouleaux de guidage (3) qui sont adaptés pour faire varier la taille d'une surface d'appui α , avec laquelle ladite au moins une bande de matériau (4) est en appui sur le contre-cylindre (2), et en ce que les rouleaux de guidage (3) peuvent être réglés verticalement et latéralement. 30 35

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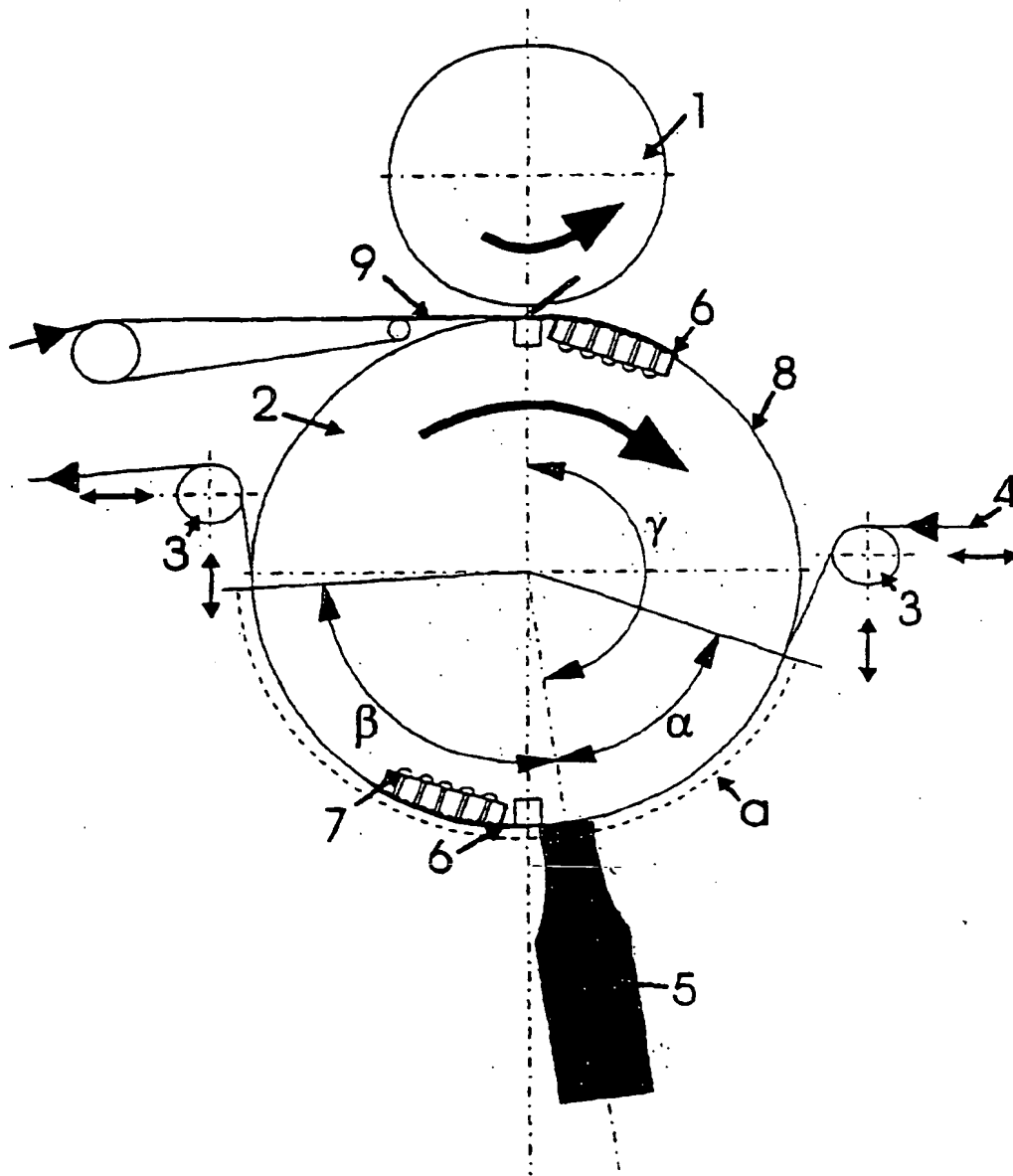


Fig. 1